

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for forming compressed dosage forms, comprising:

- a) a suction source;
- b) a die cavity having (i) a first port for placing said die cavity in flow communication with said suction source, whereby said suction source applies suction to said die cavity, and (ii) a second port for placing said die cavity in flow communication with a supply of powder, whereby said suction source assists said powder in flowing into said die cavity;
- (c) a filter disposed between said suction source and said second port, whereby suction is applied to said die cavity through said filter; and
- (d) a punch for compressing said powder in said die cavity so as to form said compressed dosage forms; and
- (e) a powder recovery system for removing excess powder from the vicinity of said die cavity that also includes a recycling means for recovering powder trapped by said filter and recycling said recovered powder back into said die cavity.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said punch is mounted for motion between first and second positions, said first position disposed below said first and second ports, and said second position disposed between said first and second ports, whereby said punch isolates said first port from said die cavity when in said second position.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a portion of said powder that flows through said cavity is trapped in said filter, and said apparatus further comprises:

- f) a source of pressurized fluid;
- g) a conduit for placing said pressurized fluid in flow communication with said filter so as to purge said trapped powder from said filter.

16. Cancel

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, which is capable of compressing said powder with a force of at least 20 kN.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said filter is disposed within said die cavity.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said filter is disposed proximal to said die cavity.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said die table further comprises a plurality of openings on its outer periphery, a plurality of channels connecting said openings with said die cavities, and a shoe block contacting a portion of the outer periphery of said die table and aligned with said openings, such that said shoe block covers said openings upon rotation of said die table past said shoe block.

Claims 21 – 39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) An apparatus for forming compressed dosage forms, comprising:

a) a suction source;

b) a die cavity having (i) a first port for placing said die cavity in flow communication with said suction source, whereby said suction source applies suction to said die cavity, and (ii) a second port for placing said die cavity in flow communication with a supply of powder, whereby said suction source assists said powder in flowing into said die cavity;

(c) a filter disposed between said suction source and said second port, whereby suction is applied to said die cavity through said filter; and

(d) a punch for compressing said powder in said die cavity so as to form said compressed dosage forms; and

(e) a purge system for removing powder from said filter; and

(f) a powder recovery system for removing excess powder from the vicinity of said die cavity that also includes a recycling means for recovering powder that is removed by the purge system from said filter and recycling said recovered powder back into said die cavity.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said punch is mounted for motion between first and second positions, said first position disposed below said first and second ports, and said second position disposed between said first and second ports, whereby said punch isolates said first port from said die cavity when in said second position.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein a portion of said powder that flows through said cavity is trapped in said filter, and wherein said purge system comprises:

- i) a source of pressurized fluid;
- ii) a conduit for placing said pressurized fluid in flow communication with said filter so as to purge said trapped powder from said filter.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein a powder recovery system that comprises means for recovering powder trapped by said filter and means for recycling said recovered powder back to said die cavity is in communication with the purge system.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 43, which is capable of compressing said powder with a force of at least 20 kN.

45. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said filter is disposed within said die cavity.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said filter is disposed proximal to said die cavity.

47. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said die table further comprises a plurality of openings on its outer periphery, a plurality of channels connecting said openings with said die cavities, and a shoe block contacting a portion of the outer periphery of said die table and aligned with said openings, such that said shoe block covers said openings upon rotation of said die table past said shoe block.